

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) A distributed system for collaborative computing comprising:  
a web zone for allowing a plurality of client computers to access the distributed system via a global-area network, the web zone having at least one web server;

a meeting zone for supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers, the meeting zone having a meeting manager, a process manager, a plurality of collaborative servers, and a plurality of application servers, wherein:

the meeting manager is operable to manage the on-line conference in the meeting zone;

the process manager is operable to launch the plurality of collaborative servers;

each collaborative server is operable to host at least a portion of the on-line conference; ~~and~~

each application server is operable to support at least one service for the on-line conference; and

the meeting manager is operable to detect failures of the collaborative servers and upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, to send a request to the process manager to launch a new collaborative server.

20. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein each collaborative server and each application server comprises a respective logical server.

21. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 20 wherein ~~the meeting zone comprises a~~ the process manager for monitoring is operable to monitor each logical server.

22. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 20 wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager for supporting communication among the logical servers.

23. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to maintain status information for the meeting zone.

24. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein the at least one service for the on-line conference comprises one of document viewing, file sharing, video, voice over IP, telephony, polling, chat, and application sharing.

25. (Previously presented) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein the meeting manager is operable to manage all the collaborative servers and the application servers in the meeting zone.

26. (Currently amended) A method for collaborative computing in a distributed system having a web zone and a meeting zone, the method comprising:

at the web zone allowing a plurality of client computers to access the distributed system via a global-area network;

at the meeting zone supporting an on-line conference among the plurality of client computers, wherein supporting the on-line conference comprises:

launching a plurality of collaborative servers;

hosting the on-line conference on the collaborative servers in the meeting zone;

managing the on-line conference in the meeting zone; ~~and~~

supporting at least one service for the on-line conference;

detecting failures of the collaborative servers; and

upon detecting failure of one of the collaborative servers, launching a new collaborative server.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 wherein a plurality of logical servers are used for supporting the on-line conference.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 comprising monitoring each logical server.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27 comprising supporting communication among the logical servers.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26 comprising maintaining status information for the meeting zone.

31. (New) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein the meeting zone comprises a zone manager operable to maintain state information for the collaborative servers and upon failure of one of the collaborative servers, to provide state information for the failed collaborative server to the new collaborative server.

32. (New) The distributed system of claim 19 wherein the process manager is operable to launch the plurality of application servers and the meeting manager is operable to detect failures of the application servers and upon detecting failure of one of the application servers, to send a request to the process manager to launch a new application server.

33. (New) The distributed system of claim 32 wherein upon detecting failure of one of the application servers, the meeting manager reconnects collaborative servers connected to the failed application server to the new application server.